Equal Rights

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Heralds of International Feminism

Three of the Emissaries who went to Rambouillet to seek audience with the plenipotentiaries in attendance at the Pact Conference to present the Equal Rights Treaty. Left to right: Mlle. Fanny Bunand-Sevastos, France; Doris Stevens, U. S. A., and Prof. Maria A. Loschi, Italy.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY
The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT
"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."
[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]
Introduced in the Senate, January 4, 1928,
by Senator Charles E. Curtis, Kansas.
Introduced in the House, May 18, 1928,
by Representative Frederick W. Magrady, Pennsylvania.

The Test of Sincerity

THE object of the National Woman's Party, as all the world knows, is the removal of all forms of the subjection of women. Membership in the Party is, to quote from our constitution, "Open to all women who will support this object without regard to the interests of any political party." Between campaigns this membership requirement seems obvious enough, for if one puts Equal Rights first the interests of any political party must in the nature of the case come second. Besides, between campaigns there is no call to make the sort of clean-cut decision that voting for one candidate or another requires of the elector.

It is much like the difference between being a pacifist in time of peace and in war time; in the one case rather pleasant and satisfying to the self-respect of a civilized person, and in the other perhaps as devastating an ordeal as the human spirit is required to face in this vale of sorrows.

The test of true allegiance to the principles of the Woman's Party comes, not in the peaceable interim between political campaigns when the choice of party or candidates looms only on the most remote horizon, but in those belligerent few months just before election, when party feeling runs high and personal predeliction tends to cloud abstract issues.

Then is the time when all true Feminists respond to the call of Equal Rights, and then is the time also when those who do not truly put Equal Rights first begin to rationalize their conduct.

Of course under certain circumstances the decision offers no difficulties. For instance, in the present campaign for traditional Republicans to place Equal Rights first and vote the Hoover-Curtis ticket is the easiest thing in the world, for supporting the Republican candidates in this election offers the best hope for the success of the Equal Rights Amendment. Which is all very nice for traditional Republicans, but a totally different matter for traditional Democrats, Socialists, and Prohibitionists.

To ask a traditional Democrat to vote the Republican ticket is asking her at the same time to sacrifice something curiously akin to actual principles. Especially is this difficult in the absence of an absolutely specific pronouncement on the part of one of the Republican candidates regarding the Equal Rights Amendment.

IT IS precisely at this point that we wish to enter the argument. Governor Smith has stated repeatedly, with emphasis and fervor, that he is permanently opposed to industrial equality. During his term of office as Governor of New York State he consistently supported various measures designed to restrict the opportunities of women workers. And he is proud of his record.

In sharp contrast to Governor Smith's shut-minded attitude on the problem is Mr. Hoover's recent statement to our delegation:

"I agree with you in principle," said Mr. Hoover. "I would go to any extent to remove restrictions on equality of opportunity." * * * "I have the utmost sympathy for your problems."

In view of the outspoken opinions of these two men, what must the choice be for a Democratic member of the Woman's Party? And by the same token, what must the choice be for a Socialist member? Norman Thomas, the Socialist candidate for the Presidency, gave the answer himself when he was interviewed recently by the chairman of our National Council. He is opposed to industrial equality, he believes in restrictive legislation for women only.

In the case of Mr. Varney, the Prohibition candidate, the situation presents a different sort of problem, for Mr. Varney has had the courage and wisdom to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment. But Mr. Varney is running in so small a number of States as to place his actual election beyond the range of possibility.

What then is a member of the Woman's Party to do under the circumstances? We reply: Support Equal Rights without regard to the interests of any political party. And by support we do not mean merely vote for Mr. Hoover and Senator Curtis. For you must do more than that.

The power of the Woman's Party as an organization destined to contribute its full share to the Equal Rights movement lies within the keeping of each one of its members. It is a sacred trust, an obligation. Work, in the spirit of the Woman's Party, wholeheartedly, for the candidates whose election you believe offers the best hope for the Equal Rights Amendment. If you find this a hard test of your sincerity, by so much the more will you have sealed your allegiance to the cause of Feminism.

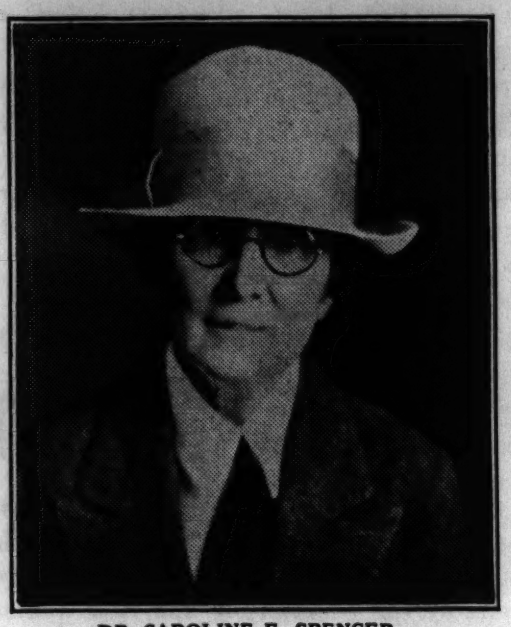
Caroline E. Spencer—Pioneer Militant

THE National Woman's Party has suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. Caroline E. Spencer of Colorado, a member of our National Council.

Ever since 1914, when she joined the Woman's Party, Dr. Spencer was active in every campaign and gave invaluable service in planning the policies of the organization. Her fine, keen mind was a moving force in every undertaking. Nothing could daunt her indomitable spirit. Even when her physical strength was almost exhausted, she carried on with the marvelous determination that characterized her.

Years before national suffrage was won Dr. Spencer was a pioneer in the fight for Equal Rights. After her graduation from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, she went to Colorado where, as secretary of the Woman's Political Union, she opposed the eight-hour law for women, recognizing far in advance of her time that special legislation was a handicap to women in the economic struggle.

When the National Woman's Party appealed to women voters of the West to use their ballots to win suffrage for all women, Dr. Spencer was one of the first to respond. In 1914 and 1916, she led the campaigns in Colorado to demonstrate to the Democratic Party that the women voters would not support a party that



DR. CAROLINE E. SPENCER.

blocked the national suffrage amendment. She came East in 1917 to join the pickets in Washington and was arrested and sentenced to seven months imprisonment. She was again arrested in 1919 when she took part in the watchfire demonstrations before the White House and was sentenced to five days in the District jail.

After suffrage was won and the Woman's Party reorganized for the Equal Rights fight, Dr. Spencer was elected a member of the National Council. When there was some question as to the position the Woman's Party should take on special legislation for women, Dr. Spencer vigorously fought for equality for women in industry, and played an important part in mapping out the Equal Rights program. The National Council depended greatly on her vision and judgment.

Every member of the Woman's Party who knew Dr. Spencer feels her death as a great personal sorrow. Admired for her penetrating mind and unfailing courage, she was loved for the qualities that made her a rare friend and companion. Her lovely sense of humor saved many a situation and smoothed over many hard spots in trying campaigns.

She gave all her strength and mind and spirit to the cause of the advancement of women. The most fitting tribute we can pay to her is to carry on with equal devotion and determination.

Equal Rights Amendment and Protective Legislation

WILL the Equal Rights Amendment affect protective legislation for women? This is sometimes asked, but in order to reply it is necessary to know what is meant by protective legislation.

There are three kinds of protective legislation generally considered in this connection:

1. Children's (miscalled "mothers'") pensions.
2. Sheppard-Towner maternity and infancy act.
3. Industrial legislation.

Let us consider each separately.

1. Children's Pensions.

This pension is for the child and not the mother. The basis is usually so much for each child. The pension is often given to others than the mother to administer; for example, the Colorado law gives it to either parent who is responsible for the child and unable to support it.

The Woman's Party believes there should be no discrimination between the child who is motherless and the child who is fatherless, but that aid should be based upon the needs of the child and given to either parent or other guardian to administer.

The Equal Rights Amendment would not interfere with this legislation.

Editor's Note: This compendium of answers and objections was prepared by Maud Younger, Congressional Chairman of the National Woman's Party, and will we believe be of significant value to campaign workers. Reprints may be had at nominal cost after October 8, on application to National Headquarters.

2. Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act.

This law provides for an appropriation from the United States Treasury to the several States "for the purpose of co-operating with them in promoting the welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy." It charges the Children's Bureau with the administration of the act, and further provides that no official agent or representative of the Children's Bureau shall enter any home or take charge of any child over the objections of the parents or either of them, or the persons standing in loco parentis or having custody of such child.

This law would not be affected by the Equal Rights Amendment which provides for Equal Rights between men and women.

3. Industrial Legislation for Women.

This legislation is of four types:

(a) Seats in stores.
(b) Prohibition of occupations.
(c) Limitation of hours of work.
(d) Prohibition of night work.

The National Woman's Party believes that all such legislation should be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker — that it should apply to men and women alike. This standard of equality which the Equal Rights Amendment would establish nationally is already existent in some parts of the United States or other countries. For example:

(a) Seats for men and women employes engaged in mercantile or other business pursuits are required by law in Florida.

(b) That no one should be disqualified on account of sex from entering into or pursuing any lawful business, vocation or profession is provided in the constitution of California.

(c) A ten-hour law for all *persons,* men and women alike, in mills, factories and manufacturing establishments, is found in Oregon. Mississippi and Georgia have ten-hour laws for all *persons,* men and women alike, in manufacturing industries. Eight-hour laws for *persons,* men and women alike, in certain specified occupations, are found in over thirty States.

The demand for a shorter work-day is based upon the need of leisure, health, recreation and the fulfilling of one's duties to society. These needs bear no relation to sex and the laws which provide for a shorter work-day should, therefore, be regardless of sex.

(d) While the regulation of night work has been applied to men and women alike in some places, as Norway, in sixteen of

the United States it applies to women only. The arguments of the Attorney-General upholding the New York night work law were based on extensive investigations, both here and in Europe. The law applies to women only, but the arguments and investigations apply to both men and women. To summarize, they declared night work injurious because—

(1) Artificial light is injurious to the eyes.

(2) Sleep in the daytime is more broken than at night.

(3) It tends toward greater smoking, drinking and swearing.

(4) Lack of sunshine tends to anaemia and tuberculosis and weakens the procreative power of men as well as the generative functions of women.

The Equal Rights Amendment would require that all these industrial laws be made to apply to men and women alike, but the standard adopted would be left to the States.

Industrial laws when applying to women and not to men are among the gravest discriminations against women. They close many doors of opportunity to women seeking employment, while women thrown out of work by their passage are invariably forced into harder, more poorly paid work, as scrubbnig floors, for which they must compete with one another.

This legislation, with its linking of women with children instead of with adults, began years ago in the transition stage of women's much protested invasion of industry. Today when women are an established and increasingly important part of our economic life, justice requires that legislation concerning them be on the same basis as that for their male competitors.

CONCLUSION.

The Equal Rights Amendment would not interfere with Children's pensions nor with the Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act. It would, however, require that all industrial laws be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker.

Working Wives Need Their Jobs

A SERIES of interviews written by Julia McCarthy and published in the New York *World* on September 23 shows the injustice of the frequent rulings of school boards, railroads, and other employers that married women may not hold their positions. These interviews were held with women working on the Long Island Railroad, which recently decided that all married women clerks should be discharged on December 31, and that in the future married women should not be employed as clerks. Exceptions were to be made if a woman's husband was permanently disabled.

The road has since "held the proposed rule in abeyance," and has announced that it "wishes it distinctly understood that no married women employes have been dismissed from the service." The New York *World,* however, reports a still further invasion of the rights of these women, saying that it is understood that the railroad is "quietly looking into the records and necessities of the individual women affected by the order." This would indicate that the railroad intends to set itself up as the judge of whether or not a married woman "needs" work. Nobody but the individual can be the judge of that. The employer should base his judgment solely on merit and efficiency.

MISS McCARTHY'S article follows:

"As thoroughly committed to railroad life as the celebrated Casey Jones, eleven married women clerks scheduled for dismissal January 1, 1929, by the Long Island Railroad, absolve the company from blame in the matter. They charge that jealousy in the ranks of the Clerk's Association is responsible for the situation.

"Furthermore, the clerical wives say the married men clerks who want to oust them have wives who work. The reduction ruling, due to departmental 'consolidation' as announced September 13, stated:

"'This (reduction) caused the representatives of the clerks to raise certain questions regarding the further employment by the company of married women and the retention of married women already in the service.

"'Early this year . . . clerks suggested to . . . management that the existing rules and regulations governing employment be amended by adding the following article.

"'Married women will not be employed or retained in the service, the only exception being a married woman who may be employed whose husband is permanently disabled through sickness or other causes. This rule becomes effective January 1, 1929.'

"'. . . some question having been raised as to the manner of bringing about the change . . . now being reconsidered . . . being held in abeyance.'

"Presumably the married women could get other jobs elsewhere, but they don't want to. 'They like to stay put and just there is a great part of the trouble,' said E. F. Garwood, chief clerk in the General Superintendent's office.

"'They wouldn't be out of jobs even if they left the company—but everyone, I suppose, likes to stay put.'

"The question comes up again whether or not jobs should be given to those who need them or who have won them through merit or length of service, and whether or not an employer has a right to question how his employees spend their money, be it for bread and butter, second mortgages, Queens sewer assessments, diamonds, furs, white hyacinths to feed their souls, coal to feed their furnaces, or gin to cheer their guests.

"The single girl in an office is not always pleased with the married woman, who flashes her legal jewelry, brags that she has two salaries to draw upon, and refers to her own weekly envelope as so much velvet. The married man who may be displaced by a married woman regards her employment as malicious gold-digging. The married woman's own point of view in this instance, is told by Katherine Price, who acted as chairwoman of the committee of married workers who visited General Superintendent Baker of the Long Island Railroad in protest at dismissal. Mrs. Price said:

"'We have been accused of working for luxuries.

"'That is not true. Most of us are working to help make payments on homes. We are over 30—the majority are—not frivolous, and compelled to look into the future and try to help provide for it.

"'You can't ignore a mortgage. Payments must be met.'

"A clerk's pay is between $110 and $140 a month, advancement by seniority, and cuts in pay when the labor market is overcrowded with good clerks. Phone operators are not affected by the proposed ruling against married women, since it applies only to clerks. Three of five women visited in the Long Island City freight office looked prosperous, if annoyed, wore diamond rings and good clothes.

"'We're not complaining against the railroad, only against the Clerk's Association which started all this discrimination against married women. Mr. Baker, general superintendent of the road, offered to let us hold a meeting, which we did. Each freight office is represented by a clerk—this one, I think, by a Mr. Harris, whom I do not know.

"'I am a member of the association, which is not a union, but an inside affair, within the company.

"'May I not be allowed to work, help my husband buy a home so that we will not have to live on charity in our old age?

"'A home comes first—it should—and I do not consider it a luxury that I should not be permited to strive for. I expect to keep on working for many years to help pay for it.

"'I worked out West for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Road. I married

and quit work. Then my husband was transferred from Chicago to New York. When we got here we found everything terribly high in price. Eight months after my wedding I went to work again.

" 'Two years ago we decided to make some sacrifices and buy a home. We went out in Queens and looked around. We saw rows and rows of flimsy houses all alike, crowded one against the other, poorly built, so we decided that we would not get a home that wasn't well put together on a good foundation. I said I would get a job and help. We got a place in Hollis in a good section.

" 'We have no household system of disposing of each pay envelope, except that we have certain obligations to meet and so we put our funds together to meet them. Neither one of us is inclined to spend any money foolishly or ever forget when the money is due, or regret our plan.

" Think of all the couples in New York City paying high rent, buying clothes on credit, never saving a cent or caring—well, I don't want to be like that. There is no future in that.

" 'Peoples like to work for railroads because you get your commutation tickets into the city, which is quite an item, too.

" 'What I don't like about the men clerks complaining of married women working, is that many of them have wives who work, too, and you may be sure they don't object to that.

" 'Just look at the wedding rings on the railroad and subway trains as people go and come from work. Thousands of married women work, and I don't believe many of them would if they didn't think they had to. I know I wouldn't if it wasn't necessary.

" 'Marriage changes a person's way of looking at things. When I was single I always thought I had to dress better, and I always sent my clothes to the dry cleaners. Now I spend part of every Sunday with gasoline, cleaning dresses myself. I save just that much. I do many things like that to save money. The cost of living today is appalling. How long will $10 worth of even staple groceries last? Five dollars worth will scarcely carry a small household over Sunday, and I am not counting the cost of meat, either, in that sum.

" 'Is it wrong to want a decent well-built house and refuse to buy one of these matchbox affairs where the furniture falls through the floor? We are not saving to buy an automobile so we could have pleasant outings, but simply to get a home, some foundation to our life.

" 'There are payments to meet, and I don't need to tell you that in Queens we have the sewer assessment looming up in front of us, but that's such an old story now that we don't even talk about it. It's still there anyway.'

"IN addition to Mrs. Price, the freight office of the Long Island Railroad in Long Island City employs four other married women workers. Mary Tunney of Richmond Hill, who has been working for the railroad eight or nine years, has been married but a few months, has undecided views upon the subject of married women working except that she and her husband are saving for a first payment upon a prospective home (not yet selected), and said timidly:

" 'No, I couldn't say anything. I am not authorized to speak.'

"Mabel Amberman of Jamaica declared she is working to help make payments on a home and not for luxuries.

" 'I was away on a vacation when all this discussion came up. So I do not know all the particulars. I have been working here four years. I have a little boy to take care of, too. My job is 'arrival notice clerk.' and I need the job.'

"Two other women clerks are Hazel Hartley of Queens Village, who is helping to pay for a home, and Josephine Hucke of Richmond Hill, who was ill the day after the meeting, and whose plans the other working wives did not care to define. Six others are in different freight offices.

"The men workers feel that the women, by virtue of their former seniority right are 'bumping' the men's jobs. Mrs. Price explained this railroad term:

" 'When I was out a while and came back I didn't 'bump' anyone's job—or displace anyone. When one person with a longer record of service fills another's job that is called 'bumping' it. No man ever lost a job through me. Some women have been working here ten years.

" 'It is a serious problem to most of us. We're nearly all over 30—well I am speaking for myself and some of the others. When you're as old as that you don't work just for fun.'

"Russell Shults, general chairman of the committee of the Clerk's Association, explained:

" 'Under the seniority bidding privilege, a married woman with seniority could displace a man with dependents who had less seniority.

" 'Suppose two people, a man and a woman wanted a certain job, the woman having ten years and five months' experience behind her and the man only ten years even. The married woman having this seniority could displace the man. I'd rather not talk about it. . . . ..

"The Clerk's Association, about 1,000 in number, was formed in 1923. The married women facing dismissal are members of it. George Plato, publicity director for the railroad, gave the company's reasons for cutting down the ranks:

"As we explained, the question came up when it became necessary to let off some employees from time to time through the recent system of consolidating departments in operation for the past three or four years. . . . .

"The clerks decided to change the seniority ruling so that the married women couldn't keep a job from a man by right of having worked a little longer.

" 'It is tentatively, and not actually in force, now.

" 'The whole matter is under advisement. No action has yet been taken. I don't know that these women under discussion actually will lose their jobs. We don't care to say any more about it.

" 'Certainly any appeal they may make, individually, or as a group, will be carefully considered by the company. I don't know if any such appeals have been made.

" 'Under Federal control, the railroads all got stocked up with too many employees. Numbers have gradually been let out. No, I can't give you figures. Not even a rough estimate. Let's drop the matter.' "

Equal Rights Campaign in Eastern States

THE Woman's Party's national organization will concentrate its election campaign, with Equal Rights as the issue, in Eastern States which are expected to be hotly contested in the election.

In New York and in New Jersey speakers of the National Woman's Party will urge support of Herbert Hoover and Senator Charles Curtis for President and Vice-President as the only candidates who promise any hope for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. No other issue will be discussed by Woman's Party leaders in the campaign.

Northern New Jersey and New York City have been selected by the Woman's Party campaign committee as the most important fields for the national organization's work, as in these portions of the Eastern States it is believed that only a few hundred votes may determine the way the respective States will go in November.

Campaign headquarters will be opened at 542 Fifth Avenue, New York City, with a conference of Eastern State chairmen.

"We will carry the fight into Governor Smith's stronghold where his opposition to industrial equality has been most keenly felt," explained Mabel Vernon, national executive secretary of the Woman's Party.

A meeting of the National Council will be held in New York City on October 9 to make plans for the campaign.

State branches of the Woman's Party

will organize the work in each State. House-to-house campaigns are being planned in many States, Equal Rights literature will be distributed, and a nation-wide effort will be made to get women to the polls in November to cast their ballots for Mr. Hoover and Senator Curtis on the Equal Rights issue.

Among the speakers the national organization will send into New York and New Jersey are Mrs. Harvey Wiley and Mrs. Richard Wainwright of Washington, D. C.; Mabel Vernon of Delaware; Maud Younger of California; Mrs. John Jay White, Mrs. Stephen H. P. Pell, Rebecca Hourwich, Mary Murray, Frances Roberts, and Jane Norman Smith of New York; Leila Enders of New Jersey; Anita Pollitzer of South Carolina; and Gail Laughlin, member of the Maine Legislature.

All are experienced speakers who have devoted their lives to the winning of suffrage and the establishment of Equal Rights between men and women.

The New York City Committee has thrown itself heartily into the campaign work. The committee adopted the following resolution on September 27:

"Women are a greater factor in this present campaign than ever before, and

"*Whereas* there is no more important issue than Equal Rights, and that women shall have equal opportunity with men to earn their own living, and

"*Whereas* our Governor Smith has continually and consistently stood for resierictive laws hampering women in their economic struggle,

"We of the New York City Committee of the National Woman's Party unanimously oppose the election of Governor Smith for President, and commend the action by the National Council supporting the candidacy of Herbert Hoover and Senator Charles Curtis, and pledge ourselves to do all in our power to defeat Governor Smith and help bring about the election of the Republican candidates."

Women in Mexico

By Anna M. W. Pennypacker

READERS of EQUAL RIGHTS will perhaps be interested in the status of women in our neighbor Republic of Mexico, so I am sending a summary of a report I have made on this subject to a seminary group held last July at the University of Mexico Summer School.

There seems to be at present no organized national group of Mexican Feminists working for greater freedom for women and for their participation in political life, although there is a small group in Yucatan, where women are very progressive. There have been several attempts to bring together women from all parts of the country to form a national movement. They have met with hostility and derision on the part of the press and the public, and so far have been merely beginnings, the forerunner, we hope, of a future organization. Progressive Mexican women are greatly handicapped by the fact that there still lingers in their country the old, medieval conception of woman as a beautiful parasite, with no full human life of her own, but living for the joy—or the lust—of men, the property first of her father, then of her husband, her sole duty to care for a home and bring children into the world. Consequently, any suggestion of changed standards encounters the usual prejudice, greatly intensified.

SOCIAL conditions in Mexico, however, are changing rapidly. Great strides forward have been made since the beginning of the century, and especially since the revolution. The present progressive Government is working out many interesting developments along the lines of education that I cannot in this article touch upon, and has passed some of the most advanced legislation in the world.

In the growing industrialization of the country, women are going in increasing numbers into the industries and into business, and large numbers of independent, self-supporting women in the country will necessarily wear away the old sex prejudices. Women entered into industry at about the same time that the workers were organizing. They entered the unions with the men, as a matter of course, and are taking their share in union activities and work under the same conditions. They all have the eight-hour day; overtime is voluntary and receives extra compensation.

Under the Constitution of 1917 women were given economic freedom. This included the right to own and control their own property, all educational opportunities from the primary school up through the universities and professional schools, the right to enter business and to hold government positions on the same terms with men. The law and medical professions open the same opportunities to men and women. Doctora Ortiz told me that there have been women professors in the National University lecturing to medical students of both sexes.

WOMEN are beginning to take advantage of their opportunities. There are two women practicing law in Mexico City and a few more in the other States and one student in the law school. Esperanza V. Bringas, who has just tried and won her first case in the criminal courts, is also head of the Federal Department of Libraries, which is doing most interesting work, especially in sending small libraries to all the little villages in the farthest ends of the country. There are twenty-six women doctors in Mexico City organized in an active association and others in other parts of the country. Elena Landazuri, one of Mexico's foremost women leaders, is now engaged in promoting the work of the Government's rural missions in Tlaxcala. A Mexican women whom I know has for twenty years carried on her own business. She is a well-known contractor and painter and has now the contract to paint the American Embassy.

Mexican women then are in a position just opposite to our own. Instead of going after the vote and stopping with that, as many of our women have done, they are at present ignoring the vote and doing what is perhaps more important, preparing themselves and beginning to take part in the development of their country. Their status before the law is far in advance of our own. The Congress at its last session passed the Ley de Relaciones Familiares, to be published in the new Civil Code, which removes all disqualifications against women. Women, therefore, have equal property and inheritance rights, equal guardianship and rights as trustees, and in making contracts, the same right to sue for divorce, and the father is made equally responsible for the illegitimate child. There are also provisions for the working mother to have leave of absence, with pay, for a period before and after childbirth. There are a few provisions in the law designed to prevent women from working in industries supposed to be dangerous to their health or morals. We regret that these could not nave been made to apply equally to men. But, with this exception, there appears to be no distinction before the law, except as to voting and holding office.

The attitude of the present Government is interesting. The men who are guiding it have, with extraordinary vision, recognized the importance of the contribution women should make to the growth and development of the country, and are calling upon women to come forward and share equally the responsibility. In the far-off Indian villages, where the Government is starting rural schools as community centers, the department always tries to have an Indian woman on the School Committee, and those Indian women have come forward splendidly, giving their land for the schools, and helping in every way to give the children opportunities they themselves have missed.

The Government has established juvenile courts, providing three judges, one of whom must be a woman, and is deliberately opening opportunities and inducing women to take their share in the community life—a striking contrast to the attitude of most so-called advanced governments toward women.

These new opportunities and legal advantages have come before women have organized to demand them, and are in advance of public opinion which changes slowly; hence there are surprising contrasts. Women in many cases receive less pay for the same work, and there is an old law which I am told is still in force that a woman may not be on the streets without an escort after 10 P. M. At the same time women are admitted to the new Federal Aviation School and twenty-four of them are entering! Political activity is frowned upon, and birth control may not even be mentioned by one who values his reputation, although there is no law against its teaching.

WITH so much already done there is little doubt that, given peace in Mexico and an opportunity for the country to develop, women will soon be actively participating in every phase of life. They have a number of courageous leaders with the real spirit of pioneers. I had the very great pleasure of conversing recently with Elvira Carrillo Puerto, who with two other women served at one time in the Yucatan State Legislature, over which she presided. In Yucatan and one or two other States women may vote in the local elections, and there is nothing in the Federal Constitution to prevent them from voting, only custom.

Senorita Puerto decided to offer herself as a candidate for the Federal Chamber of Deputies. In order to qualify, she bought land in San Luis Potosi, and established a residence there. She then toured the entire State, riding horseback over the mountains to the farthest villages, talking to the people everywhere. The people were for her, and she polled the largest number of votes, but the Chamber of Deputies would not seat a woman. Let us hope she will do it again and that many other women will follow her brave lead, storming the doors of that august body until it opens to receive them. Such courage and vision, with determination, must win in the end. Meantime, it is a heartening stimulus to women all over the world working for equality.

What Governor Smith Said

GOVERNOR ALFRED E. SMITH of New York, Democratic nominee for President, made clear his stand on Equal Rights in letters which he authorized Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt to write to Maud Younger, Congressional chairman of the Woman's Party, and Ellen B. Crump, chairman of the Mississippi State Branch.

Following Governor Smith's nomination, Miss Younger wrote to him as follows:

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY,
21 First Street, Northeast,
Washington, D. C.
July 30, 1928.

Governor Alfred E. Smith,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

In view of the fact that the Democratic platform deals with equality between men and women as to political and governmental matters only, I am writing on behalf of the National Woman's Party to express the hope that you will make clear your own position on this subject.

Those of us who are so intensely interested in securing Equal Rights for women feel that the Democratic platform does not deal adequately with the question, particularly as to the Equal Rights Amendment.

This amendment, as you know, is now before Congress, having been introduced by Senator Curtis. Its text, with his statement upon its introduction, is here enclosed.

We hope most earnestly that you will see your way clear to give an assurance to the women of the country either in your speech of acceptance, or at the earliest possible moment convenient to you, of your support of equality in the law between men and women and of the Equal Rights Amendment as a means of obtaining it.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) MAUD YOUNGER,
Congressional Chairman.
On behalf of the National Council of the National Woman's Party.

The following reply was received by Miss Younger:

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
1775 Broadway, at 57th Street,
New York City.
August 17, 1928.

Miss Maud Younger,
Congressional Chairman on behalf of the National Council of the National Woman's Party,
21 First Street, Northeast,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Younger:

Your letter to Governor Smith has been given to me for answer.

Governor Smith's views are being very often expressed. He believes in equal pay for equal work, but I think he has always believed that there were certain groups of women that still needed legislative protection.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.
(Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.)

Mrs. Crump also asked Governor Smith to make his stand clear, and received the following reply:

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
1775 Broadway, at 57th Street,
New York City.
August 3, 1928.

Mrs. Ellen Phelps Crump,
Chairman Mississippi Branch,
National Woman's Party,
Nitta Yuma, Miss.

Dear Mrs. Crump:

Your letter to the Governor has been given to me to answer.

You know that the Governor has always been extremely interested in everything that is for the good of women and children, but I doubt very much whether he would be willing in his speech of acceptance to touch on anything as specific as the Equal Rights Amendment.

I also think that if you will look over his speeches you will find what his point of view is as regards women and children.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.
(Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.)

These letters make Governor Smith's position perfectly clear, if his previous acts and statements as Governor of New York had not done so. They are a complete answer to the charges made in some quarters that Governor Smith was not given an adequate hearing before the National Woman's Party.

CHARACTERISTIC of Governor Smith's attitude is the following episode described in the "Life of Alfred E. Smith," by Norman Hapgood and Henry Moscowitz, and which we have previously quoted:

"In his private office one day was a group of left-wing Feminists, members of the Woman's Party, who came to protest against special social legislation for women.

"A favorite word of theirs was equality.

"Smith said to them: 'It is not a question of equality. I have been fighting for these laws upstairs and down here on the second floor because women have different physical needs. Don't blame me.

" 'If you want to blame anybody, blame God.

" 'You will never turn me against these protective laws.

"'They have been passed in the interest of public health to protect members of the race. Judges have declared them constitutional.

"'Preserving public health is a good public policy.

"'Read what the doctors and scientists have said on this subject. I have been studying it for more than fifteen years. I believe in equality, but I cannot nurse a baby.'

"There was no lack of courtesy, but there was a certain amount of brusqueness, as there is likely to be when Smith is dealing with minds that he feels are aggressive and not marked by profound grasp."

This episode is well remembered by New York Feminists, who say that it typifies Governor Smith's attitude toward industrial equality.

Feminist Notes

Marksman

B. BADCOCK, the only woman who shot this year for the King's Prize, beat every man competitor at Bisley recently, in two club contests. Miss Badcock claimed her right to shoot in the King's Prize on account of her war service with the R. A. O. C.

"Saffa" and Suffrage

THE Swiss Exposition of Women's Work, known as the "Saffa," from the first letters of the German form of its title (*Schwiezerische Austellung für Frauenarbeit*) opened at Berne on August 26. For more than two years the women of Switzerland have been preparing for it. They hope that this demonstration of their efficiency in trades, in professions, in home-life, of their contribution to the economic and social welfare of their country, will help them to secure the right to vote. In it, says *Le Mouvement Feministe*, the voice of Feminism is heard, saying, "If women, while political minors, can give evidence of all the qualities they display at the Saffa, they will be capable of much more once the everlasting fetters are removed."

Manages Big Newspapers

From a convalescent's couch in France, an American-born woman is conducting personally one of the greatest newspaper enterprises in the world. She is Mme. Paul Dupuy, widow of Senator Paul Dupuy, the man who made the *Petit Parisien*, which has an enormous sale.

Mme. Dupuy is recuperating from an operation, but by means of the private telephone exchange adjoining her study, she is in constant touch with her newspapers. In addition to the *Petit Parisien*, she controls the *Excelsior*, the leading picture paper on the continent, the *Dimanche Illustre*, an illustrated Sunday paper with a circulation of more than half a million, and a number of magazines. She follows the policy of accurate and brightly presented news and pictures, a well-printed paper, and good advertising.

News from the Field

D. C. Branch Discusses Campaign

THE District of Columbia Branch discussed the part the Woman's Party is to take in the election campaign at a tea at National Headquarters on Sunday afternoon, September 30.

Mrs. Harvey Wiley, Mrs. Richard Wainwright, and Maud Younger, all of whom will speak in the national organization's campaign, addressed the tea.

Opinions On the Arrests

DORIS STEVENS, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, has received a letter of warm congratulation from Dr. Victor Maúrtua, Peruvian Ambassador to Brazil, who wrote to her from Sweden, commending her valiant demonstration in Paris when she and other Feminists sought to present the Equal Rights Treaty to the plenipotentiaries gathered to sign the treaty outlawing war.

Dr. Maúrtua was chairman of the Committee on Private International Law in the Sixth Pan-American Conference, which appointed the Commission of Women to study and report on the existing discriminations against women in all the countries of this hemisphere.

"We have firmly believed," says Clara González, lawyer and representative of Panama on the Inter-American Commission of Women, "that when one door closes, a thousand open. Since the arrest of Miss Stevens in Paris and since the display of indifference by the diplomats who signed the Peace Pact toward the treaty which she wished to submit for their consideration, a new victory has been recorded in the annals of militant feminism.

"The first step has been taken toward the final contest. Women have been admitted to an international conference, the most important of all, and we shall see them before this great assembly. The Equal Rights treaty will make its appearance on the horizon in the very near future."

A Woman's Right to Choose Her Residence

WHETHER or not a woman has a right to choose a residence different from that of her husband is involved in a case appealed to the customs commissioners after the Collector of the Port of New York had ruled that a woman's residence is determined by that of her husband.

Ganna Walska, opera singer and wife of Harold F. McCormick of Chicago, sought to bring into this country $2,500,000 worth of jewels and clothing without paying duty on them. She declared all these possessions, but insisted that she should not pay duty on them because she is a resident of Paris, merely visiting the United States. Collector Philip Elting held that she is a resident of the United States because her husband is. Mme. Walska pointed out that she has lived in Paris for seven or eight years, and that it has been her intention from the time of her marriage to Mr. McCormick to live in Paris.

When Collector Elting ruled against her she appealed to the customs commissioners, who have not yet announced their decision.

The Washington *Star* published the following interview with Jane Norman Smith, chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, on the significance of the ruling of the Collector of the Port:

"'The effort of Mme. Ganna Walska, opera singer and wife of Harold F. McCormick of Chicago, to bring $2,500,000 worth of jewels and clothing into the United States without paying duty on the ground that she is a resident of France will stimulate American women to a step forward in Feminine independence,' Mrs. Clarence Smith, chairman of the National Council of the Woman's Party, said yesterday."

Mme. Walska's attorney, Henry D. Bulkley, left for Washington to appeal from the ruling of Philip Elting, Collector of the Port, that she must pay duty on her foreign purchases.

The Custom Service's legal department expressed the opnion today that the singer might be permitted to take her possessions back to France when she returns, as she plans, in several months. She contends the law gives her the same right to determine her citizenship as it does American women.

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